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### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend Claims 1 – 18 as follows:

1. (Original) Alpine ski with an elongate ski body (1) forming a running surface (5), a mounting (7) for fastening a binding arranged on the upper face of the ski body (1) and rigidly connected therewith and, attached to the ski body (1) extending in the longitudinal direction of the ski body (1) and receiving pressure forces, at least one upper cord element (11), the ends thereof being supported on the ski body (1), the upper cord element (11) being movably mounted relative to the ski body (1) between its ends and constructed such that under the impact of pressure forces it endeavours to deform elastically by flexural buckling and to carry out a deflection movement relative to the ski body (1) and support elements (17, 21, 22) being provided on the ski body (1) which counteract the deflection movement of the upper cord element (11) by exerting a counter force.

2. (Original) Alpine ski according to claim 1, characterised in that the upper cord element (11) comprises at least one slightly curved rod (12) which spans the ski body (1) in the manner of an arc.

3. (Currently Amended) Alpine ski according to ~~either claim 1 or claim 2~~ claim 1, characterised in that the upper cord element (11) is formed from a plurality of slightly curved rods (12) which are arranged adjacent to one another spanning the ski body.

4. (Currently Amended) Alpine ski according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 2 or claim 3, characterised in that the rod (12) is arranged relative to the ski

body in such a manner that the plane defined by its curved longitudinal axis is oriented perpendicular to the running surface (5) of the ski body (1).

5. (Currently Amended) Alpine ski according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 2 or claim 3, characterised in that the rod (12) is arranged relative to the ski body (1) in such a manner that the plane defined by its curved longitudinal axis is inclined toward the running surface (5) of the ski body (1).

6. (Original) Alpine ski according to claim 5, characterised in that at least two rods (12) are arranged in such a manner that the planes defined by their curved longitudinal axes abut one another above the ski.

7. (Currently Amended) Alpine ski according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 3, characterised in that between the rods (12) arranged on both sides of the middle of the ski body (1) a spacing is provided into which the apex regions (16) of the rods can move under the effect of pressure forces.

8. (Currently Amended) Alpine ski according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the mounting (7) for fastening the binding is connected to the ski body (1) such that the elastic deformability of the ski body (1) is not affected.

9. (Currently Amended) Alpine ski according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the mounting (7) comprises at least two supports (9, 10) arranged longitudinally at a distance from one another, one support being rigidly connected and the other support longitudinally displaceably connected to the ski body (1).

10. (Currently Amended) Alpine ski according to ~~any of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the mounting (7) for fastening the binding comprises a plate (8) which extends over the upper cord element (11) and carries a support element (17) on its lower face for supporting the upper cord element (11).

11. (Original) Alpine ski according to claim 10, characterised in that the support element (17) comprises a spring compressible by the upper cord element (11).

12. (Original) Alpine ski according to claim 10, characterised in that the support element comprises a bearing element (20) with a sliding surface on which the upper cord element (11) slides transversely to its longitudinal direction.

13. (Currently Amended) Alpine ski according to ~~any of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the support of at least one end of the upper cord element (11) or of a rod (12) forming it is adjustable in the longitudinal direction of the ski body (1).

14. (Currently Amended) Alpine ski according to ~~any of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~ claim 2 or claim 3, characterised in that at a distance from the ends of the rod (12) fastened to the ski body (1) at least one guide element (15) is provided, in which the rod (12) is longitudinally displaceably guided.

15. (Currently Amended) Alpine ski according to ~~any of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~ claim 14, characterised in that the guide element (15) is formed in such a manner that it allows a limited transverse movement of the rod (12) in the direction of the plane defined by its curved longitudinal axis.

16. (Currently Amended) Alpine ski according to ~~any of the preceding~~ ~~claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that damping elements acting on the upper cord

element (11) are provided which dampen the compensating movements of the upper cord element (11) occurring under compressive stress.

17. (Currently Amended) Alpine ski according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that on the upper face of the ski body (1) a traction element (18) is arranged which extends in the longitudinal direction of the ski body (1) and the ends thereof are fastened to the end regions of the ski body (1), the ski body (1) comprising a support protruding from the ski body (1) in at least one position between the ends of the traction element (18), on which support the tensioned traction element (18) rests.

18. (Currently Amended) Alpine ski according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that the ends of the upper cord element (11) are connected to the ski body (1) by a connection transmitting pressure forces and tensile forces and that the upper cord element (11) is constructed and/or mounted such that under the impact of tensile forces it endeavours to deform elastically.